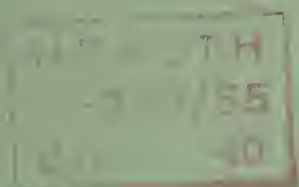


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BOROUGH OF PENZANCE



THE

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

1954



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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman - Councillor H. Watkins.(until 26th October)
- Councillor J. G. Corin.(from 26th October)

Vice-Chairman - Councillor E. M. Cain.

The Mayor - Councillor J. S. Stephens.(ex officio)

Alderman Miss A. U. Chirgwin.
Alderman B. D. Stevenson.
Councillor T. Cotton.
Councillor W. E. Cowan-Dickie
Councillor A. J. Gribble.
Councillor W. G. Paul.
Councillor H. L. Richardson.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health:

W. K. DUNSCOMBE.M.D.,M.R.C.S.,L.R.C.P.,D.P.H.,
D.T.M. & H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

L. E. A. B. FARR.L.M.S.S.A.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

A. T. HARPER. M.R.San.I.,F.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspectors:

R. E. WARBURTON. Cert.R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.B.&
Cert.R.S.I.Meat & Food
Inspection.

W. G. STEVENSON. Cert.R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.B.&
Cert.R.S.I.Meat & Food
Inspection.

Public Health Department,
Municipal Buildings,
Penzance.

The MAYOR, ALDERMEN and COUNCILLORS,
BOROUGH of PENZANCE.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health is an expression of opinion as well as a Statutory requirement, it necessarily follows that comments on it cannot always be to everyone's liking, but this year I am happy to say that in the parts of the report which relate solely to the work of the Council there is no reason for criticism; on the contrary, I can only praise the Council for the way in which they are facing up to their obligations in Public Health matters in spite of continually rising prices and wages which yearly make extra demands on the ratepayers. This is particularly the case as far as the all-important questions of water supplies, sewerage, and housing are concerned as these are still the fundamentals of Public Health.

It has been the fashion for the past few years rather to decry what is known as "environmental hygiene", particularly while the National Health Service was being built up, but now the pendulum is starting to swing the right way and has been given an added push by the Minister when he indicated that Local Authorities should now re-start slum clearance.

Unfortunately the corollary to some of their actions is not always clear to our Whitehall warriors and it is indeed already evident that the burdens placed on some of the very small District Councils is more than they or their ratepayers can reasonably be called upon to bear. The need, therefore, for a substantial reform of County Districts by amalgamation or fusion into considerably larger units is now urgent, and in few counties could this be more profitably undertaken than in Cornwall. This question of the reform of Local Government has been on the carpet for many years and it is an unfortunate characteristic of administration in this country that a matter such as this, which is acknowledged by all who have the interests of the people really at heart as absolutely necessary should drag on from decade to decade without any Government having the modicum of enterprise necessary to deal with it.

A point which applies to many authorities where the Medical Officer of Health also carries out duties for the County Council under the National Health Service in addition to those pertaining to his own post, is that while until recently the emphasis has been on the development of the personal services, now with attention again being given to the environmental services, it will be impossible to give the time to the duties for the County Council to which it has become accustomed. Some alteration in the present scheme for this County is necessary.

In conclusion, I must once again express my thanks to the Committee for its close attention to Public Health matters and to my fellow Chief Officers and their staffs for their co-operation. For the help of the Chief Sanitary Inspector and the other members of the staff of the Health Department I am especially grateful.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

W. K. DUNSCOMBE.

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE BOROUGH

Area - 3,578 acres.

Population - 19,970. (Registrar-General's estimate
mid-year 1954).

Rateable Value - £139, 321.

Product of Penny Rate - £553. 12s. 5d.

No. of Inhabited Houses - 6,633.

<u>No. of Livebirths:</u>	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	115	117	232
Illegitimate	13	1	14

Rate per 1,000 population: 12.3

<u>No. of Stillbirths:</u>	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	6	2	8
Illegitimate	-	1	1

Rate per 1,000 total births: 35.3

<u>No. of Deaths:</u>	Male	Female	Total
	148	128	276

Rate per 1,000 population: 13.8

<u>No. of Infant Deaths:</u>	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	5	-	5
Illegitimate	1	-	1

Rate per 1,000 livebirths: 24.4

Maternal Deaths - Nil.

COMMENT.

The live birth rate remained stationary while the death rate fell slightly but the infant mortality rate fell to what I believe to be a record low figure. However, before we preen ourselves too much I must emphasise that because the figures are small there must be considerable fluctuation from year to year. Of the six deaths recorded under 1 year of age, 5 occurred within four weeks of birth.

SECTION B

CAUSES OF DEATH

	M.	F.	Total.
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	1	2
Syphilitic Disease	1	-	1
Cancer of stomach	5	10	15
Cancer of lung, bronchus	7	-	7
Cancer of breast	-	4	4
Cancer of uterus	-	-	-
Cancer of other sites	9	9	18
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	1	2
Diabetes	-	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	15	22	37
Coronary disease, angina	30	19	49
Hypertension with heart disease	3	2	5
Other heart disease	24	29	53
Other circulatory disease	4	10	14
Influenza	1	-	1
Pneumonia	2	5	7
Bronchitis	9	2	11
Other diseases of respiratory system	4	-	4
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	1	3
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	6	1	7
Hyperplasia of prostate	4	-	4
Congenital malformations	2	1	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	12	8	20
Motor Accidents	1	-	1
Accidents (not motor)	2	2	4
Suicide	3	-	3
All causes	148	128	276

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH

	M.	F.	Total
1. Heart Disease	57	50	107
2. Cancer	21	23	44
3. Vascular lesions of nervous system	15	22	37

COMMENT.

A comparison with previous years will be found in Appendix C. This year the number of deaths from heart disease is greater in proportion to those from cancer but it is not possible to deduce from this that there is any definite tendency to a reduction in cancer deaths. The number of deaths from vascular lesions of the nervous system which includes what are called in plain language "strokes" etc. is still high.

A great deal of discussion has occurred in the national and medical press as regards the increase in the number of deaths throughout the country due to cancer of the lung. Here the figures are necessarily so small that from year to year it is not possible to draw any valid conclusions. Owing, however, to the fact that the Land's End area is virtually smokeless it might be possible to give some figures after a ten year period which could be of value, but the time for this is not yet.

SECTION C

CLIMATE 1954

	Dry	Wet	Max.	Min.	Rain Ins.	Sun Hrs.
	Degrees					
January	45.0	42.7	48.0	40.5	3.65	69.6
February	43.9	42.0	48.0	38.7	5.88	109.4
March	48.7	46.8	53.0	42.0	4.21	121.7
April	51.8	47.5	56.0	44.0	.84	246.0
May	54.9	51.3	58.5	48.8	4.04	217.1
June	58.8	56.0	62.0	53.1	3.22	168.8
July	59.3	55.9	63.0	54.6	3.86	146.3
August	60.3	57.8	63.8	53.3	1.74	172.9
September	59.0	56.6	62.8	52.1	4.91	180.1
October	57.1	55.2	60.0	51.8	3.28	85.2
November	52.1	50.7	55.2	44.0	7.74	78.4
December	49.6	47.5	52.0	45.1	4.70	56.0

Total Rainfall 48.07 50 year average 41.61

Total Sunshine 1651.5 50 year average 1686.5

During a year when the dullest weather since 1937 was experienced throughout the country Penzance's total was only 35 hours below average.

Snow lay (1") for a period of 6 days at the end of January and the beginning of February and from Jan. 30th to Feb. 6th (inc.) night temperatures were well below 32 degrees.

November was a month of heavy rainfall, high winds with a procession of gales.

The maximum temperature for the year was 68 degrees (August), and the minimum - 21 degrees (February).

The figures given by the courtesy of the Borough Librarian tell a good deal of the story but the year was remarkable for the most severe frost in living memory and was also dull, cold and wet, a most unfortunate summation of events for a seaside resort which naturally hopes to attract visitors by having good weather at least in the holiday period.

SECTION D

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

(1) Water Supplies.

The following is an estimate of houses (a) without a water supply in the Borough, (b) those with a standpipe supply, and (c) with mains supply. (The figures are supplied by courtesy of the Borough Engineer).

	(a) No. Public Supply	(b) From Standpipe	(c) Mains
1953	28	78	6240
1954	28	75	6298

The number of samples taken for analysis was as hereunder:-

Samples	Supplies					
	Drift Domestic Works		Boscathnoe Domestic Works		Others Public Private	
Raw	-	-	-	-	9	6
Treated	43	43	46	48	34	-
Chemical	2	-	1	-	1	-
Plumbo- Solvency	5	-	-	-	-	-

(a). General. The wet summer meant that supplies were generally well maintained and no shortage resulted. As far as the particular supplies are concerned these are dealt with as follows:-

(b). Drift Scheme. Here matters proceeded at a majestic pace but by the end of the year we were not in sight of the Public Inquiry that will be necessary. Special negotiations were going on with one riparian owner which may have the effect of shortening the procedure that would otherwise have to be carried out. It is hoped that in the next report the final conclusion of the business can be reported. It is an unfortunate fact that the legal side of such a matter takes longer than the actual technical work.

(c). Boscathnoe. Here there is a much happier state of affairs and it is possible to say that by the end of the year the new filtration plant had been to all intents and purposes completed. Thus the Council has carried out their promise made at the time of the passing of the Penzance Water Act in 1938 that the quality of this supply would be improved, and this in spite of greatly increased costs, difficulty in getting materials etc. Certainly one of the greatest worries of this Department will now cease and barring accidents it is not anticipated that there will be any need to report supplies from this source as not really suitable for public use.

(d). Heamoor. This supply, the source of which is liable to contamination, became so bad that it had to be discontinued. Attempts were made to cleanse the reservoir and clean the source, but they were unsuccessful and therefore it has been cut off permanently. Arrangements were made to use the Drift water through a pressure reducing valve.

(e). Gulval. This continued to be reasonably satisfactory in spite of the roof of the reservoir being in so poor a state. As this will still be used for storage even when the Drift Scheme is in being, the Council must really deal with this question, especially as then they will have two supplies of the highest quality. These obviously should not be mixed with any untreated water or one that is liable to contamination from outside as is now the case.

(2) Sewerage.

In March a deputation went to the Ministry to ascertain their views on the possibility of a reasonably comprehensive scheme for the Borough which would at the same time be practicable financially.

The main items considered were (a) the Paul-Mousehole section which might become eligible for grant on account of the nature of the rural area which it served, and (b) the Newlyn and Lariggan areas. The nuisance in the harbour at Newlyn has been mentioned in other reports but the Tolcarne and Lariggan outfalls cause a considerable nuisance because they do not extend out far enough. The proposal was to link all into one outfall with disintegrator chambers and extend the outfall beyond the Lariggan rocks.

The Ministry seemed sympathetic, though not very enamoured of the disintegrators for a reason which the writer is unable to fathom, so the preparation of a scheme on the lines above mentioned was put in hand. The Paul-Mousehole section has of necessity to make use of one of the existing outfalls and the next thing is to combine all those now discharging into Mousehole harbour into one which discharges outside.

Though the Newlyn/Lariggan scheme meant the taking of extensive float tests at different depths and states of the tide this brief account will serve to show that the Borough is going ahead to deal with a very expensive legacy from times past.

At the same time the Council took effective steps to deal with the recurring nuisance caused by overflowing so-called cesspools on the Gurnick Estate at Newlyn. This is a private estate with unadopted roads and where quite inadequate provision for sewerage was made when the houses were built. Only soak-aways were provided and they naturally have become full with the result that the occupiers of the houses were forced to arrange to have them pumped out with gradually increasing frequency and at considerable cost. As the result of meetings between the occupiers and the Council it was decided to provide a sewer and connect this to the Council's sewer, the cost of each occupier's contribution not to exceed £60, repayment of which might be spread over a period of years. Though this arrangement meant that the general body of rate-payers also had to contribute nearly a 2d. rate, it did eliminate permanently a serious nuisance.

(3) Infectious Diseases.

For the first time I believe on record no case of diphtheria occurred in the Borough. This is very interesting as some years ago (in 1951) I had to point out that there appeared to be a reservoir of highly virulent infection ready to produce very serious illness or death unless children were protected by immunisation. It is too early to say too much as yet, but this is one kind of reservoir we shall all be very glad to see dry up.

No other major acute infectious disease was

notified and though there were still cases of scarlet fever, I have mentioned before that since the same organism is also capable of causing tonsillitis, sore throats etc. without a rash, the whole question of the notification of this disease should be reviewed.

Careful attention was given to contacts of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and though initially this is part of the County Council's duties under Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1948, the Housing Committee once again gave special consideration to the re-housing of persons suffering from this disease living in unsatisfactory circumstances.

(4) Housing.

(a). General. During the year 57 houses were built by the Council and 25 by private enterprise. This is not quite the whole story as the former figure includes 5 bungalows built by the Council for sale as an example to the local builders of what could be done. The over-all cost at about £1750 coupled with the good workmanship and standard of the fittings etc. was an eye-opener and those members of the public who inspected the bungalows on completion were very favourably impressed. It is only fair to say that though this was achieved with a fairly large direct labour organisation it has stimulated the private builders and there has been a good demand for plots in the private enterprise sections of the Alverton Estate.

(b). The principal achievements, however, were undoubtedly the bringing to completion of the Navy Inn Court flats at Newlyn and the virtual completion of the first stage of the St. Clare Street flats opposite the Hospital.

These are the first fruits of the Council's present policy of building on developed sites in the town as distinct from taking in further good agricultural land and nothing but praise can be given to all concerned, and although the sites are expensive and attract a high subsidy from the rates this has to be matched with the higher Government subsidy. Even so the flats are being let at a most reasonable rent and, especially those at Newlyn, have a view and general situation which at any other seaside town would bring them into the category of luxury flats - with a corresponding rent.

The St. Clare Street flats, though not so favourably situated, replace slum and derelict property which was an eyesore and represent to the writer the fulfilment of a tentative suggestion made nearly 8 years ago. Work has already commenced on the second stage which will involve the demolition and clearance of further slum sites and the re-housing of a number of the occupants on the site.

(c). This naturally brings us to one of the main items of legislation passed during the year - the Housing Repairs and Rent Act, 1954. This Act was to be a mile-stone accompanied as it was with exhortations regarding slum clearance and with its provisions regarding patching etc., but it must be said that,

though it is early yet to say it has failed in its object, this is not likely to be achieved as far as patching, repairs by landlord etc. are concerned. The latter indeed has become so complicated that throughout the country few landlords are attempting to do anything, while the problems for the Local Authorities in purchasing (authorisations, District Valuer's figures etc.) make the question of patching equally vague, and unless some much simpler procedure is to be adopted this section of the Act is moribund already.

(d). Slum Clearance. This Borough has a considerable problem on its hands especially when a five-year replacement programme has to be taken into consideration. There is a number of houses which require to be dealt with at once and though some of these will be included in the flats scheme mentioned above this does not deal with all those priority ones while the lower categories will take much longer.

At the end of the year 540 persons were on the Council's waiting list exclusive of those in slum clearance areas so that on the assumption that the allocation to the Council of houses to be built in the next five years will remain at the same level as last year it is impossible for both sides i.e. persons on the ordinary waiting list, and those occupying slum houses to be dealt with in the time.

Councils are to send their proposals to the Minister by August but it will be virtually impossible to include all the houses to be dealt with under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, and as far as Penzance is concerned there is a very special difficulty in dealing with Mousehole. Here there is a number of back-to-back houses in different ownerships etc. and unless the Council is prepared to go in for quite extensive schemes of compulsory purchase so as to ensure one ownership only it will be virtually impossible to deal with that area at all. Since the idea is to leave the present special and rather unspoiled atmosphere of the village as it is, neither demolition nor Closing Order procedure will get the houses into a proper condition for habitation and only compulsory purchase can deal with the problem.

(e). Mention has been made of the persons on the ordinary waiting list which is of course governed by the Council's Points Scheme. Naturally almost everyone on the waiting list considers their case worse than anyone else's, but with some considerable experience of the working of Points Schemes elsewhere the writer can say with confidence that here it operates as fairly and impartially as anywhere. All appeals are given special consideration by the Housing (Management) Subcommittee who spend very many hours in their deliberations and all special allocations come to the full Housing Committee and subsequently to open Council so that any departure from the Points Scheme is done with the consent of all.

(5) National Assistance Act.

No case was dealt with either under the main Act

or the emergency procedure, the Council having decided that it was not necessary to proceed further against the person on whom the first order was made in the Borough in 1950. In her case no less than 14 renewals were necessary and as has been said before I am sure that such a number of applications for extensions was never contemplated when the Act came into force.

(6) Food Hygiene.

Mention was made last year to the effect that the problem is primarily one of the human element as no matter what expensive equipment is provided it is the individual in the end who matters. However, it is impossible for us to live in a bacteriologically sterile environment and equally impossible to have operating theatre technique in premises where food is manufactured or handled.

Nevertheless, long nails can be cut, and sores and boils etc. on the hand covered, while if washbasins and towels are provided close to W. C's there is no excuse for not washing hands after using the toilet. A much more enlightened view by the management of many shops and restaurants is necessary. Glass covered cabinets for cakes and the much greater use of glass covered freeze displayers for meat and meat products and the extension of the use of frozen vegetables etc. would prove attractive to buyers and help in the prevention of food poisoning.

This aspect is especially important to a seaside resort like Penzance which it cannot be emphasised too strongly depends very largely upon visitors for its livelihood. The Food & Drugs (Amendment) Act was called the Clean Food Bill when it was passing through Parliament but the host of regulations to be made under it have not yet eventuated. These are necessary as additional weapons and it is not possible to rely only on the much-vaunted Codes of Practice which seem to represent to Government Departments a sort of Valhalla. Those of us more in touch with realities recognise that sometimes the stick is necessary instead of the carrot.

(7) Slaughterhouses.

In the year in which meat was de-controlled it is impossible to avoid some comment on this controversial matter.

Looking at the whole question at some distance now from the actual events it was obvious that de-control having been decided on it would have to be done when the flush of home killed meat was on i.e. in the summer. This is agreed but where the difficulty lay for the Local Authorities was the short time given by the Government in which to deal with the requisite administrative matters coupled with the fact that the Slaughterhouses Act, which was to amend the 1938 Act to, at that time, an unknown degree was only passing through Parliament and not yet law. Evidently the Government misjudged the muddle they would create and

were guided by the big battalions and were quite unable to appreciate the difficulties they were landing the smaller Local Authorities in, especially in the granting or renewal of licences. This is the more so as under the war-time concentration policy a meat inspection scheme was functioning satisfactorily everywhere, but once de-control took place a number of very small authorities had to start their inspection again. At the same time many more applications for the issue of licences for slaughterhouses were received than were really justified. Also there was far too much delay by the Government in issuing the so-called 'letters of guidance' so that by the time they were issued to areas where war-time concentration had taken place, it had become imperative to the Council in order to ensure adequate slaughtering facilities to issue licences permitting the re-use of premises which in certain cases had either not been used at all since 1940 or had been utilised for some other purpose.

However, it must be said that to have one or more slaughterhouses right in the middle of the town can hardly be regarded as improving the amenities even though they may be well run and supervised. The Council, therefore, following on proposals in 1951 for the setting up of an abattoir to serve the area of the four Local Authorities in the Land's End peninsula, took up this question again and sought the views of the West Penwith Rural District Council. Unfortunately the opinions of the Borough of St. Ives and the St. Just Urban District Council were not sought until after representatives of the two larger authorities had sent a deputation to the Ministry of Food, with the result that feathers were somewhat ruffled, and local pride being what it is, this project did not get off to a good start. It is earnestly hoped that next year a happier tale can be told of this proposal as, after all, in one place an abattoir has been built by no less than eight Councils so it should be possible for four to agree.

(8) Crematorium.

Last year I criticised the very slow progress made in this matter by the Local Authorities concerned, but it is now pleasing to state that considerable progress has been made over the last twelve months. Now the site and an existing building have been bought near Truro and an architect commissioned to prepare the plans. This is good news and the essential point is to see that the plan provides for extension since I am sure that once this crematorium is provided it will prove of great service to the county and will be utilised to an increasing extent.

(9) Penlee Quarry.

Mention must be made here of the efforts by the management of the Quarry to lessen the dust nuisance. When the wind is from the Southward it is inevitable that some dust falls in Newlyn, but each year for several years now the management have been doing more and more in the work of dust suppression and there is a vast difference between five years ago and now. It simply goes to show what enlightened management can do. I should also like to pay tribute to the assistance the Borough has received in this matter from the Alkali Works Inspector.

R E P O R T

O F

T H E

C H I E F S A N I T A R Y I N S P E C T O R

Public Health Department,
Municipal Buildings,
Penzance.

The MAYOR, ALDERMEN and COUNCILLORS,
BOROUGH of PENZANCE.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the work of the Sanitary Department during the year ending 31st December, 1954. A summary of the visits and inspections is contained in Appendix F and this indicates very clearly the wide field of matters related to public health which come within the range of the department's duties. The modern conception of the term "Sanitation" has become very limited and in no way conveys the extent of these duties. This was in the minds of the members of the Working Party set up to enquire into the recruitment and training of Sanitary Inspectors. In the report which was issued following the inquiry it was recommended that a change of title be adopted which would more accurately reflect the wide range of duties covered by the Sanitary Department.

In passing it is interesting to note that in recent months the Royal Sanitary Institute has changed its name to the Royal Society for the Promotion of Health.

There were no changes in staff during the year, nor in the division of duties amongst the Sanitary Inspectors.

As in previous years the laboratory services provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service in collaboration with the Pathological Department of the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro, were utilised for the submission of milk, ice cream and water samples, and reference is made to the results in the text of this report.

Appendix H is a summary of work carried out by the Weights and Measures Department of the Cornwall County Council under the Food & Drugs Act and I am indebted to Mr. H. A. Rundle for supplying this information and for his co-operation in many ways during the year.

I would like to place on record my appreciation of the work of the staff through-out the year which was often carried out in unpleasant circumstances; for the most valuable guidance of the Medical Officer of Health, and for the ready co-operation of colleagues in other Departments of the Council and for the continued interest of the Chairman and members of the Health Committee.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. T. HARPER.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

(1) Food and Drugs Administration.

(a). The maintenance of a clean, wholesome and safe food supply is amongst the chief responsibilities of the Sanitary Department and a very considerable proportion of the staff's time was given to this purpose, and in one particular aspect resulted in many hours of overtime being worked.

The year saw the end of Government control over the slaughtering industry and with the return of slaughter-houses to the private traders the system of meat inspection needed modification. Under the Ministry of Food, slaughtering was carried out in premises concentrated in the Bread Street area, by staff employed by the Ministry. De-control led to the opening of premises away from Bread Street and to the increase in the number of masters controlling the activities of the slaughtermen with the result that slaughtering was carried out over a longer period each day and greater demands were made on the inspector's time. Added to this the Department helped a neighbouring authority for a period of three months whilst it was without an inspector.

Another problem which was intensified on de-control was that of uninspected meat coming into the Borough for sale. With the re-opening of private slaughter-houses throughout the county this was bound to happen as many authorities had been without a meat inspection service since 1939 and were not in a position to resume this responsibility.

At the end of the year the Council had licensed five slaughterhouses, four of which were in regular use. A summary of the work carried out is contained in Appendix G.

Particular attention has been given to catering hygiene and regular routine inspections have been made of restaurants, restaurant kitchens, bakehouses and other food-preparing premises. The Department recognises the great importance of this work particularly in a district catering for large numbers of visitors, and will welcome the long promised regulations when they are eventually issued. Provided these are not emasculated under pressure from trade interests they should be of considerable assistance in securing an effective control of the catering industry.

The information required by the Minister of Health, as requested by Circular 1/54 is set out below:-

(i) No. of Food premises in the Borough:-

Butchers	35	Sweets & Confectionery	27
Manufacturing Butchers	17*	Hotels, Restaurants,	
Bakers	19	Cafes & Snack Bars	73
Fish-friers	18*	Dairies	27
Grocers	84	Licensed premises	41
Fruiterers &		Wet fish shops	8
Greengrocers	28	Wine & Spirit	
		Merchants	2
		Ice Cream Premises	82*

(ii) No. of registered premises in Borough:-

(a) Under Sec. 14, Food & Drugs Act, 1938
(See * in (i) above) 117

(b) Under Milk & Dairies Regulations 25

(iii) The number of inspections of all types of food premises is shown in the summary of visits and inspections in Appendix F.

(iv) No new educational activity in the form of clean food guilds or otherwise was undertaken during the year.

(v) Condemned food has been disposed of by one of two methods, i.e. unsound and diseased meat has been taken to the premises of Cornish Fish Products Ltd. at Stable Hobba where it was rendered down for use with other artificial manures; other food-stuffs in small quantities have been taken to the Council's refuse tip for burial.

(b). Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations. The trend of recent years for more and more traders to be concerned in the sale of ice cream continued during 1954 and at the end of the year 82 premises were registered, an increase of 9 over 1953. Conversely the number of local manufacturers has shown a steady decline over a number of years. There are now only 5 manufacturers within the Borough as against 12 when the Regulations came into force. Fifty-three visits were made to various premises.

At the request of the laboratory, sampling was concentrated on the products of local firms and only infrequent samples were taken of the big manufacturers. As a consequence only 48 samples were taken as compared with 72 in the preceding year. The results which were very gratifying are tabulated as follows:-

Samples returned in Grade 1.....	41	or	85.4%
Samples returned in Grade 2.....	4	or	8.3%
Samples returned in Grade 3.....	3	or	6.2%
Samples returned in Grade 4.....			Nil.

Tests for fat content were carried out on 11 of the samples taken, 5 contained 5% or over, 2 between 4% and 5%, and 4 were below 4%. Unsatisfactory results were reported to the Weights & Measures Department of the Cornwall County Council for formal action.

(c). Milk & Dairies Regulations. Special attention has again been paid to the milk retailed in the Borough, a monthly sampling routine from all sources having been maintained and the results can be said to be most satisfactory. Apart from the occasion when a batch of samples was delayed on the rail and did not reach the laboratory in the specified time, there was only one failure throughout the year out of a total of 81 samples submitted for methylene blue test.

The results are summarised in the table below.

Producer No.	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jne	Jly	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1(Past)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	F ⁺	P	P	P	P
2(Past)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P ⁺	P	P	P	P
3(T.T.)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	F ⁺	P	P	P	P
4(Past)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P ⁺	P	P	P	P
5(Un-graded)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P ⁺	P	P	-	-
6(Un-graded)	1st F 2nd P	P	P	P	P	P	P	F ⁺	P	P	P	P
7(T.T. Past)	-	P	P	P	P	P	P	P ⁺	P	P	P	P

+ - Samples delayed on rail and delivered 24 hours late.

P - Pass

F - Fail

Altogether there are 30 registered retailers of milk, all of whom are licensed to sell Designated Milk. There are also 27 premises registered as dairies. 86 visits were made to these during the year.

(2) Factories Act Administration.

The work of the Department is summarised in Appendix E which is a copy of the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health to the Minister of Labour and National Service. There is nothing which calls for special comment. The Borough is not highly industrialised and only minor defects were found to be needing attention.

(3) Housing Act Administration.

Activities in this direction were of a more positive nature than in the earlier post war years. In previous reports it had been pointed out that recourse to the nuisances section of the Public Health Act as a means of dealing with more urgent items of repair to properties rather than the use of the full powers of Sections 9 & 11 of the Housing Act did not give much satisfaction to officers who were anxious to see something substantial done to remedy unsatisfactory housing conditions. Ridiculously low rents of some of the older properties made it difficult for owners to maintain them in a reasonable condition. With the passing of the Housing Repairs

and Rents Act, 1954, this position has been eased somewhat, although little indication was evident by the end of the year that landlords were eager to avail themselves of the power to raise rents. The impression was formed that landlords were afraid the issue of Repairs Increase Notices would bring a deluge of Certificate of Disrepair about their heads.

However, the drive inaugurated by the Government urging Local Authorities to resume their housing activities and prepare their slum clearance programmes will have the effect of drawing attention to those houses which can be saved for at least a reasonable period of years and landlords will be called upon to put these in order or alternatively the authorities may purchase and do the work themselves. It is anticipated that hand in hand with slum clearance and individual demolition will go a renewed campaign to use the provisions of Section 9 for the repair of sub-standard houses.

During the year 5 houses were made fit under Section 9 action, 2 new Closing Orders were made and 18 surveys had been made for purposes of the Clearance Area drive. In the same period 14 properties were demolished.

(4) Water Supplies.

One of the most important routine duties is the frequent sampling of water from the main public supplies. For some time past weekly samples have been taken from both the Drift and Boscathnoe supplies at their sources and in distribution. The supplies for Tolcarne, Heamoor and Gulval have been sampled at less frequent intervals.

This system of sampling was maintained throughout 1954 and, in the main, reports were satisfactory although a series of adverse reports on the Heamoor supply led to its abandonment, the district being fed instead from Drift. This supply was never entirely free from suspicion so that from the consumers' point of view it was gratifying to know that Heamoor could be supplied quite adequately from Drift.

A little intermittent trouble was experienced with the Boscathnoe supply but having regard to the method of treatment at the reservoir this supply proved reasonably sound. The new treatment works were nearing completion by the end of the year and with this in operation the water from Boscathnoe should be just as satisfactory as that from Drift.

All supplies were also sampled for chemical examination with satisfactory results, although care has been needed to counteract the natural plumbosolvent action of both the Drift and the Boscathnoe supplies.

Inspections at individual premises in connection with water supplies totalled 101 and during the year 20 houses were provided with individual supplies. These were mainly in the Paul area, but others in Gulval were surveyed and when future housing commitments have been determined it is intended to proceed with the question of water supplies in this and other areas.

(5) Refuse Collection & Disposal.

Certain changes were made in the cleansing service in an effort to reduce the high cost. It has been generally agreed that the major contributory cause was the very considerable expense involved in scraping soil from the Council's building sites, its transference to the tip and subsequent spreading over the filled area and final levelling and grassing out.

To eliminate the expense of these operations which are not necessarily part of controlled tipping the Council looked elsewhere for sites where this final coverage of soil was not insisted upon. A site at the Newlyn Coombe was eventually decided upon after consultation with the owner, Mr. C. Le Grice, who agreed that only such coverage as was necessary to enable the finished tip to be made into a playing field for the Newlyn area need be provided.

Tipping commenced on this site at the end of April and by the end of the year the lower section including the area intended for a children's playground had been almost completely filled. In the meantime negotiations had been proceeding with the owner for the use of a further section of land in the valley which if filled would eventually provide sufficient area for the lay-out of a rugby pitch, a soccer pitch and a cricket square.

During the same period the last of the fields tipped on at Eastern Green was covered with soil ready for seeding out in preparation for handing back to the owner.

Another attempted economy in the service was the substitution of a 10 Cubic Yard Karrier Gamecock refuse lorry for two 7 Cubic Yard Bantams which were due for replacement. This meant that with the 10 Cubic Yard lorry which replaced a 7 Cubic Yard vehicle in 1953, the carrying capacity had not been materially reduced, but there had been a saving of one driver's wages.

To effect this economy in face of the steadily increasing number of houses to be visited and the greater bulk of refuse to be collected, particularly from business premises, was no small achievement, and the Public Health Committee realised that a continuance of this increasing demand could only be met by an increase in machines and personnel.

For the major portion of the year the service operated with two 10 Cubic Yard and two 7 Cubic Yard Karrier machines, the former with three loaders and driver and the latter with two loaders and driver, whilst on the disposal side three men were employed at the tip.

Altogether 6,336 tons of house and trade refuse were dealt with in twelve months besides very considerable amounts of street sweepings and debris from the public gardens of which no accurate account is kept. It may not be appreciated that the cost of disposal of this extra material is a charge on the Refuse Disposal Account and thereby helps to increase the cost of this service. The total cost of refuse collection for the year was £7,600 and the amount charged to refuse disposal £4,000.

(6) Sewerage & Sanitation.

Reference was made in the report for 1953 to the slow progress which was made in the conversion of earth closets and the provision of new W. C's. There was no improvement in the year under review. Strangely enough, as in 1953, 6 earth closets were converted to the water carriage system and 15 new W. C's were provided. In addition 4 cesspools were abolished.

(7) Rodent Control.

One full-time Rodent Operator was employed during the year. Methods of treatment were strictly in accordance with Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries recommendations and included poisoning and trapping.

No charges were made for the treatment of dwelling houses.

In addition to treatments for surface infestation, two treatments of the sewers of the Borough were carried out and also a 10% 'Test Bait' of the whole system. Sixty-six manholes were baited.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during 1954:-

	Local Authority	Dwelling-houses	Agricultural	All other including business & industrial	Total
No. of properties inspected	71	511	172	652	1406
No. found to be infested	44	117	36	102	299
No. treated by Local Authority	43	115	-	102	260

(7) Disinfection & Disinfestation of Premises etc.,

Premises treated following cases of infectious disease have been fumigated with formaldehyde vapour and bedding from the same dealt with in the steam disinfecter at the West Cornwall Hospital by arrangement with the Regional Hospital Board.

No trouble was experienced from bug infestation, but a number of premises found to be infested with fleas were treated with Gammexane smoke or powder. Houses de-requisitioned by the Council were treated by this method as a routine procedure.

APPENDIX A

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

(Corrected Notifications.)

1954

Disease	Penzance	St. Ives	West Penwith	St. Just
Scarlet Fever	11	5	15	-
Whooping Cough	31	9	58	28
Measles	7	164	14	2
Pneumonia	-	-	5	-
Tuberculosis -				
Respiratory	14	11	11	5
Other	2	2	3	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	1	-
Rheumatic Fever	-	1	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	15	-
Erysipelas	-	-	1	-

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

1954

Area	Number of Children who completed a full course of immunisation in 1954			Number of Children Receiving Refresher Doses
	Under 5	5-14	Total	
Penzance	205	22	227	552
St. Ives	106	8	114	81
West Penwith	228	32	260	128
St. Just	75	4	79	39

APPENDIX B

TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS 1954

	Nos. on Register 31.12.54	1 - 5	5 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 25	25 - 35	35-45	45-65	Over 65	TOTAL
<u>PENZANCE</u> Pul. M. 90 Pul. F. 65 Non-Pul. M. 12 Non-Pul. F. 10		1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	3 2 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	6(3) 8(1) 2(1) 1
<u>WEST PENWITH</u> Pul. M. 49 Pul. F. 49 Non-Pul. M. 14 Non-Pul. F. 14		1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	2 2 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	6(3) 5 1 1
<u>ST. JUST</u> Pul. M. 25 Pul. F. 16 Non-Pul. M. - Non-Pul. F. 3		1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	5(3) 1(1) 1 1
<u>ST. IVES</u> Pul. M. 39 Pul. F. 28 Non-Pul. M. 4 Non-Pul. F. 5		1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	7 6 2 2

() = Deaths

Total Notifications 52.

Total Deaths 12.

APPENDIX C

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

<u>Penzance</u>				
<u>Year</u>	1951	1952	1953	1954
Population	20,030	19,940	20,000	19,970
Total Deaths	312	280	283	276
<u>Principal Causes of Death:</u>				
Heart Disease	94	95	105	107
Cancer	52	54	46	44
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	37	32	32	37
Pneumonia	15	7	10	7
T.B.Resp.	8	2	6	2
Other Circulatory Diseases	14	14	10	14
Infant Mortality Rate	40.4	34.2	45.2	24.4

APPENDIX D

HOUSING

The following table shows the houses under the control of the Council at the end of the year 1954:-

Parc Wartha	57
Penalverne	170
Gwavas	247
Treeneere	396
Temporary Bungalows	50
Princess Royal Estate	407
Mousehole	9
Finance properties	31
Miscellaneous tenancies	57
Quarterly & Monthly tenancies	13
Total	<u>1437</u>

No. of Houses built by Council	No. of Houses built by Private Enterprise
57	25

APPENDIX E

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

PART I of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health, (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

Premises	No. on Register	In-spections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	18	27	6	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	99	165	12	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (Excluding out-workers' premises)	6	4	-	-
TOTAL	123	196	18	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND:

	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	10	10	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temp. (S.3)	1	1	-	1	-
Inadequate ventilation(S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	1	1	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):-					
(a) insufficient	5	3	-	2	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	1	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	18	16	-	4	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Out-work

Sections 110 and 111

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1), (c).	No. of cases of default in sending list to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel, making, etc.	5	-	-	-	-	-
Total	5	-	-	-	-	-

APPENDIX F

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT BY THE
SANITARY DEPARTMENT

1. Complaints which received attention	147
2. <u>Public Health Act, 1936.</u>	
Drains inspected	96
Drains tested with water	56
Drains found defective	43
Drainage work in progress	147
Drains repaired	30
New drains provided	17
Water closets inspected	17
Water closets found defective	1
Water closets repaired or renewed	3
New water closets provided	15
Earth or pail closets converted	6
Cesspools abolished	4
Eaves gutters and downspouts repaired or renewed	1
Dampness abated	4
Minor repairs effected	21
Nuisances from keeping of animals abated	1
Nuisances from accumulations abated	10
Inspections in connection with nuisances	267
Nuisances at workplaces abated	1

Public Health Act, 1936 (contd.)

Premises found to be verminous	5
Treatments carried out	23
Infectious Disease enquiries carried out	22
Premises disinfected	7
Visits re water supply	101
Water samples taken (a) bacteriological	207
(b) chemical	9
Premises provided with water supply	20
Visits re removal of refuse (a) Trade	40
(b) Domestic	30
Visits to refuse tip	241
Public Convenience inspections	94
Offensive trades inspections	25
Inspections of sanitary accommodation at licensed premises, catering establishments and places of entertainment	55
Inspections of streams and watercourses	85
Inspections of camping sites	17
General inspections of district	40

3. Housing Act.

Inspections under Section 9	14
Unfit houses made fit	5
Inspections under Section 11	64
Inspections under Section 12	4
Inspections under Section 57	16
Premises found to be overcrowded	-
Visits in connection with housing applications	47
Miscellaneous visits	115
Statutory notices served	-
Informal notices served	5
Demolition or Closing Orders made	2
General surveys for Clearance Area action	18
Visits re applications for Certificates of Disrepair	6

4. Food and Drugs Act.

Food preparing premises inspected	296
Food stores and shops inspected	933
Fish Markets, stalls and stores inspected	88
Restaurants, restaurant kitchens and mobile canteens	164
Licensed premises inspected	37
Ice cream premises inspected	53
Bakehouses inspected	58
Fried Fish Shops inspected	40
Visits to markets	392
Visits to slaughterhouses for re-licensing	18
Ice Cream samples taken	54
Food poisoning enquiries	5

5. Factories Act.

Routine inspections carried out	141
Inspections of sanitary accommodation	53
Visits re Means of Escape	2
Visits to outworkers' premises	-

6. Diseases of Animals Acts.

Number of Visits	1
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7. Shops Acts.

Routine Inspections	114
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8. <u>Milk and Dairies Administration</u>	
Inspections of Dairies	86
Milk Samples taken (a) designated	59
(b) non-designated	22
9. <u>Rodent Control</u>	
Visits to dwelling houses	187
Visits to business premises	134
Miscellaneous visits	53
Sewer treatments	2
10. Miscellaneous Visits not classified	261
11. Notices (Other than Housing Act)	
(a) Informal - Served	39
- Complied with	39
(b) Statutory - Served	-
Complied with	-

APPENDIX G

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed & Inspected	1546	994	1141	4253	2405
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	4	9	11	14	11
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	346	298	11	489	242
Percentage of the number inspected with disease other than tuberculosis	22.6	30.9	1.9	11.8	10.5
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	10	34	-	-	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	97	220	-	-	72
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	6.9	25.6	-	-	3.1

Total Weight of Meat & Offals rejected as being
unfit for human consumption.....30 Tons - 8cwts. -101
lbs

No. of Visits to slaughterhouses.....2504

OTHER FOOD REJECTED

	Tons	Cwts	lbs
Fish.....			28
Poultry.....			38
Bacon & Ham.....			33
Sausages.....		1	52
Cooked Meats.....		1	107
Flour.....		2	97
Cereals.....		1	79
Cheese & Cheese Spread.....		1	91
Sugar.....		1	94
Dried Fruit.....		1	50
Coconut Ice.....		2	102
Fish Cakes.....			33
Cakes & Pastries.....		1	95
Biscuits.....			108
Chocolates & Sweets.....			55
Canned Goods - 3623.....	2	6	23
Glass Packed Goods - 261.....			107
Other Miscellaneous Goods.....			65
	<hr/>		
TOTAL WEIGHT	3	8	25
	<hr/> <hr/>		

Total number of Condemnation Certificates issued in
respect of meat and other foods:- 1,529

APPENDIX H

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

<u>Article Sampled</u>	<u>No. Taken</u>	<u>Genuine</u>	<u>Adul- terated</u>
Beef Suet	1	1	
Butter	4	4	
Coffee & Chicory			
Essence	2	2	
Cornish Peppermints	1	1	
Custard Powder	2	2	
Dripping	1	1	
Farm Butter	1	1	
Fish Cakes	1	1	
Honey	1	1	
Ice Cream	5	4	*1
Lard	3	3	
Lemonade Crystals	2	2	
Lemon Curd	1	1	
Lemon Squash	1	1	
Malt Vinegar	3	3	
Margarine	1	1	
Milk	45	45	
Mixed Dried Fruit	1	1	
Orangeade Powder	1	1	
Orange Squash	2	2	
Plum & Apple Jam	1	1	
Pork Lard	1	1	
Pork Sausages	2	2	
Real Chicken	1	1	
Real Turkey	1	1	
Rum	1	1	
Savoury Ducks	1	1	
Strawberry Jam	1	1	
Sunda	1	1	
Table Honey	1	1	
Table Jelly	1	1	
Veev	1	1	
Whiskey	1	1	
Totals	93	92	1

* Supplier of Adulterated Ice Cream cautioned by
Clerk to County Council

